

CLAIMS

1. A pet food composition for reducing inflammatory responses in cats comprising, on a dry matter basis, fatty acids comprising omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids in a weight ratio of from about 5:1, where the majority of omega-3 fatty acids comprises alpha-linolenic acid, said composition comprising from about 7 to about 14% by weight total fat.
2. The pet food composition of claim 1 in which at least about 20 wt% of the total fatty acids are omega-6 fatty acids.
3. The pet food composition of claim 1 in which at least about 4 wt% of the total fatty acids are omega-3 fatty acids.
4. The pet food composition of claim 1 in which said omega-3 fatty acids further comprise eicosapentaenoic acid, docosahexaenoic acid, or combinations thereof.
5. The pet food composition of claim 1 in which said source of alpha-linolenic acid is flaxseed oil.
6. A method of reducing inflammatory responses in cats comprising the steps of: administering a pet food composition comprising, on a dry matter basis, from about 7 to about 14% by weight fat, and containing omega-6 and omega -3 fatty acids in a weight ratio of from about 5:1, where the majority of said omega-3 fatty acids comprise alpha-linolenic acid.
7. The method of claim 6 in which said source of alpha-linolenic acid is flaxseed oil.
8. A method of reducing inflammatory responses in cats comprising the steps of: administering a pet food composition comprising, on a dry matter basis, from about 7 to 14% by weight fat and comprising a plant-based source of omega -3 fatty acids in an amount which reduces inflammatory response and provides less immunosuppression compared to cats fed a pet food composition containing a marine-based source of omega-3 fatty acids.
9. The method of claim 8 in which said plant-based source of omega-3 fatty acids is flaxseed oil.